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Trade Policy Monitoring

Council of the European Union - Luxembourg Presidency

2004

Approved by:

Norval E. Francis, Jr.

U.S. Mission to the EU

Prepared by:

Hilde Brans (cleared by Christine Strossman)

Report Highlights:

The Presidency of the Council rotates every six months. A final schedule has not been published yet but a broad timetable has been set for the Council meetings under the Luxembourg Presidency (January-June 2005)

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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Council of the European Union Luxembourg Presidency January-June 2005

The Presidency of the Council rotates every six months. In other words, each EU country in turn takes charge of the Council agenda and chairs all the meetings for a six-month period. A final schedule has not been published yet but according to information sources, a broad timetable has been set for the Council meetings under the Luxembourg Presidency.

Issues that may be treated in the January Council are the rice negotiations between the EU and the U.S. & Thailand, maximum residue limits for pesticides and sugar from the Balkan countries. The Commission is drafting a report on the working of the banana regime which may be presented to the Council in January. Modifications to the rice regime to incorporate the outcome of the GATT Article 28 negotiations are on the draft agenda for the February Council. Items that will probably be put on the March Council agenda are the proposals on nutritional and health claims, fortified foods, food additives and food enzymes. Co-existence and labeling of spirit drinks may also be on the agenda. Discussions on the sugar and wine regime and a licensing scheme for timber imports (FLEGT) have provisionally been put on the agenda for the April Council. The adoption of the proposal on extending the period for transitional measures for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies is foreseen for the May Council. To conclude, the Luxembourg Presidency seeks to adopt amendments to the wine regime and the organic production regulation and to adopt regulations on the financing of the CAP and rural development at the June Council meeting.

Issues relating to the fisheries sector are traditionally discussed at the April and June Council meetings. Also expected are special reports of the European Court of Auditors on irregular payments under CAP, the raw tobacco regime and EU support for the forestry sector.

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